

Lorimer shines as . . .

WHITECAPS MAKE THEIR CLASS TELL

PETER Lorimer, one of the most feared marksmen of the past decade, showed he had lost little of his sting with a stunning goal for the star-studded Vancouver Whitecaps at Loakes Park on Thursday.

Although a little thicker round the waist these days, the former Leeds and Scottish international crashed home a fierce 20 yard drive straight through Gary Lester's hands as the crack North American side recorded a decisive victory.

But even that did not satisfy manager Johnny Giles, who locked the dressing room door on his team for ten minutes after the match.

Clearly he considered that a side containing four British and numerous Canadian internationals should have won by a great margin — a suggestion that Wycombe players would refute.

Five saves

For the first 20 minutes, even the likes of Welsh dragon Terry Yorath could not stop the Wanderers having the better of the play.

By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe 0, Vancouver W 4

Indeed but for two fine reaction saves by former Scottish star David Harvey from Gary Toll, the former North American Soccer League champions would have gone behind.

But thanks to Lorimer's strength and power they went in two goals ahead at halftime.

Lorimer made their first goal by winning the ball in a fierce tackle and flicking a pass through to the unmarked Alan Taylor. The former West Ham star shot easily past Lester.

Seven minutes later a buzz of expectation went round the ground as Lorimer received the ball in space just outside the penalty area.

The 600 strong crowd were not disappointed as he unleashed a fierce shot, which Lester appeared to have covered. But such was the strength of the shot that the goalkeeper could do no more than deflect it into the back of the net.

Whitecaps' great fitness and experience on a very heavy ground, proved the vital difference between the sides, although Blues manager Mike Keen assisted his tiring side by making five substitutions at the interval.

Any hopes of a Wycombe recovery were dashed seven minutes after the interval when Taylor, who looked particularly sharp, made it 3-0.

Content

Racing past Paul Birdseye onto team-mate Gerry Gray's pass, Taylor chipped a little shot over goalkeeper Chris Way just inside the right hand post.

Vancouver, who were playing their first of three matches in England, seemed content to sit on their lead and rest for sterner battles ahead.

This allowed Wycombe back into the game and both Terry Glynn and Terry Scott went close to closing the gap with shots just wide of the target.

But two minutes from time it was Vancouver who had the final say, with Yorath tapping in the rebound after Ray Hankin's header had struck a post.

So the Whitecaps, for whom this is a pre-season tour, had recorded victory on their first match on English soil. Their other matches are against Watford and Sheffield Wednesday this week.

Mr Keen took the opportunity to try out Trevor

How, a young defender put up for a free transfer by Watford, where he has played for the past eight years.

How, who comes from Great Missenden, played nearly 100 first team games in his stay at Vicarage Road, some of them as a teenager under Mr Keen himself.

Happier

Basically he is a full-back, who can also play at the heart of the defence. He played one half in each position and certainly looked happier at full-back.

How, a strong tackling player, has not yet decided whether he will stay in full-time football. If not, there must be a good chance of his coming to Loakes Park.

Thursday's match was certainly a fine workout for all concerned, and gave the Wycombe football public a chance to see some top stars in action.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester (sub: C. Way 45 mins); P. Birdseye, G. Borg (sub: P. Bycroft 45 mins); T. How, R. Davies, J. Jacobs (sub: R. Dell 45 mins); H. Kennedy, M. Holfield, S. Long (sub: K. Wilson 45 mins); G. Toll (sub: T. Scott, T. Glynn).

VANCOUVER: D. Harvey; R. Lenarduzzi, B. Parsons, M. Nickeas, J. Holmes, P. Lorimer, T. Yorath, G. Gray, C. Valentine, A. Taylor, R. Hankin. Subs not used.

Half-time 0-2. Scorers: Vancouver — Taylor (26 mins, 52), Lorimer (33), Yorath (88).

Attendance: 632.